



**SHANGHAI ACROBATS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:**  
***SHANGHAI NIGHTS!***

Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at 7pm  
Foellinger Great Hall

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# PROGRAM

## **DIRECT FROM SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SHANGHAI ACROBATS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PERFORMING SHANGHAI NIGHTS!**

Mr. Liu Junke, director

Ms. Zhao Shuangwu, choreographer

Iryna Kovalova, additional choreography  
and staging

Official tour under the auspices and aegis of the  
Ministry of Culture, The People's Republic of China

1. Opening
2. Balance Duo – Love  
Ren Can, Wang Bei
3. Triangle Poles – Sun Power  
Li Yi, Xiong Yi, Hu Tao, Cao Zhiqiang
4. Foot Juggling with Balls – Pearl Girls  
Tao Linyu, Li Jin, Zeng Nifei, Zeng Jing,  
Chen Fang
5. Teeterboard – Joyful Crowd  
Xiang Yang, Li Yi, Hu Tao, Liu Ying,  
Huang Liang
6. Clown + Springing Bowls to Head  
on Rola Rola  
Nie Jian
7. Vocal Imitation – Birds Singing  
Zhang Kui
8. Straw Hats Juggling Dance – Vigor of the  
Young  
Qiu Guosheng, Zhou Zhenliang, Wu Yan,  
Zhou Tianchen, Yuan Yuan
9. Hand Juggling – Joyful Crowd  
Zhou Yujie, Jia Aoran

20-minute intermission

10. Unicycle troupe – Evils' Invasion  
Hu Tao, Li Yi, Zheng Tian, Qiu Guosheng
11. Adagio and Ballet on Shoulders – Phoenix's  
Feathers Dow  
Luo Xichen, Hu Tao
12. Energy Trio – Power of the Evils  
Hu Tao, Li Yi, Deng Xinpeng
13. Hoop-diving – Anger of Fire  
Xiong Yi, Wu Yan, Zheng Tian, Li Chong,  
Liu Ying, Wang Dingding, Zhang Jie
14. High Chairs Climbing – Fire  
Cheng Zhi
15. Vocal imitation – Music  
Hu Tao, Li Yi, Zheng Tian, Qiu Guoshen
16. Plates Spinning on High Stilts – Fairy Trees  
Chen Fang, Wang Ji, Shen Zhonghui, Li Nan,  
Nie Li, Xie Qian
17. Happy Ending – The Reappearing of  
Phoenix with Long Feathers and Love  
All artists

Backup acts:

1. Contortion with Candle Lights  
Wang Caihong
2. Happy Chef  
Huang Liang, Yang Min, Yin Bangqing

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*The Shanghai Acrobats of the People's Republic  
of China appear by arrangement with  
Columbia Artists Management LLC  
Andrew S. Grossman, producer  
1790 Broadway, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10019  
www.cami.com*

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# PROGRAM NOTES

## SHANGHAI NIGHTS!—DREAM JOURNEY

### Opening

A dreaming boy enters into a world of fantasy in which he sees a beautiful fairy phoenix that flies over the sea, wings splashing the waves along the coast. The dreaming boy is attracted by the beauty and runs into the water.

### Act I

The fairy phoenix finds the boy, who jumps into the sea and is touched by his courage. She saves the boy and invites him to fly with her up to the warm sun and down into the wonderful sea world.

2. Balance Duo – Love
3. Triangle Poles – Sun Power
4. Foot Juggling with Balls – Pearl Girls

### Act II

The phoenix leads the dreaming boy to a palace of fantasy, and they step together into a joyful garden. The singing birds, clowns, boys' and girls' teeterboard, and flying hats show the vigorous life and entertainment. But the eyes of the ambushed evils are watching them.

5. Teeterboard – Joyful Crowd
6. Clown + Springing Bowls to Head on Rola Rola
7. Vocal Imitation – Birds Singing
8. Straw Hats Juggling Dance – Vigor of the Young
9. Hand Juggling – Joyful Crowd

*20-minute intermission*

### Act III

The palace of fantasy is invaded by the evils. In order to seize and control the fairy phoenix, the evils decide to kill the dreaming boy. The clown sacrifices himself to save the boy. The angry evils jail the phoenix and tear her feathers down piece by piece. Having no choice, the phoenix flies into the fire that lights the ruined palace of fantasy.

10. Unicycle troupe – Evils' Invasion
11. Adagio and Ballet on Shoulders – Phoenix's Feathers Down
12. Energy Trio – Power of the Evils
13. Hoop-diving – Anger of Fire
14. High Chairs Climbing – Fire

### Act IV

A piece of saxophone music wakes up the dreaming boy. He is in a forest of fairy trees that are all shiny and lit. The boy looks for the fairy phoenix he dreamt of and painfully finds a piece of her feathers. At the moment of his desperation, the phoenix, reborn from the fire, appears, and the call of love returns to the young couple.

15. Vocal imitation – Music
16. Plates Spinning on High Stilts – Fairy Trees
17. Happy Ending – The Reappearing of Phoenix with Long Feathers and Love

### Finale

Joyful artists salute to the audience

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# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The company of Shanghai Acrobats of the People's Republic of China was founded in 1959. After more than 50 years of effort, it has become one of the most influential and competitive acrobatic companies in China, and has won many awards at the acrobatic and circus competitions at home and abroad.

Its acts Two Persons Climbing the Pole, Leather Belt, and Bottles and Branches won the second prizes in the Central South Competition in preparation for the Second National Acrobatic Competition of China in 1986. Silkworms Spin Silk and Balancing on the Ball won gold medals, and Acrobatics on Pole and Hoop-Diving won silver medals at the First National Juvenile Acrobatic Competition of China in 1988. Silk-spinning Silkworms and Balancing on Ball won silver medals in the 1990 Belgium Young Star International Acrobatic Competition. Chairs Pyramid in Two Towers won the first prize and the prize of creation in the Third China National Acrobatic Competition. Climbing Pole, Hoop- Diving, and Two Persons Twirling Lanterns won the second prizes at the Third Central South Acrobatic Competition in 1995. Acrobatics on Pole and The Balance Arts of Acrobatic Gymnastics won the first prizes at the 1995 Central South Preliminary Competition for the Second National Acrobatics Competition. In the same year, The Balance Arts of AcrobaticGymnastics won the golden lion award and Acrobatics on Pole won the silver lion award at the Fourth National Acrobatic Competition. Snow Carpets Twirling won the silver lion award plus the prize of creation and Acrobatics on Pole won the silver award at the 1998 Third National Juvenile Acrobatic Competition. Also, the troupe's Acrobatics on Pole won the Silver Clown

Award at the Monte Carlo International Circus Festival in 2009. In August 2010, the company's Four Girls Contortion and Aerial Ring both won the silver awards at the Third Hanoi International Circus Festival in Vietnam.

Since the 1980s, the company has been invited and successively performed in more than 30 countries, including the United States, Germany, Spain, Britain, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Turkey, Canada, Indonesia, Fiji, Cameroon, Guinea, and Nigeria. Through the frequent activities of the international tours and performances, the troupe has not only introduced Chinese acrobatic and circus art worldwide, but also promoted friendship with the peoples of various countries. In 1999 and 2000, the company toured Germany and Netherlands as The Great Chinese State Circus for seven months. In its most recent 15 years, the company and its acts have performed for the tour of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 2002-2003, *Mystère* of Cirque du Soleil at Treasure Island Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, and Stardust's World Christmas circuses in Germany and Netherlands in 2011-2012. From 2004-2010, the troupe performed as a permanent show for six months each year at Rixos Hotel in Turkey. In 2012, its 40 acrobats performed a tour in Canada with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony's 52-piece orchestra. The company also performed a permanent show of over 50 performers as Shanghai Acrobats in Xinyang, one of China's tourist cities, for three years from 2012-2014.

The 2016 tour of the Shanghai Acrobats of the People's Republic of China takes the company on a coast to coast tour of North America, presenting the debut of *Shanghai Nights!*